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CONTENTS

<i>The Deplorable Contrast between Intranational and International Ethics and the Mission of Medical Science and Medical Men:</i> DR. S. J. MELTZER	515
<i>Cyrus Fogg Brackett:</i> PROFESSOR W. F. MAGIE	523
<i>Geographical Meeting in New York</i>	525
<i>The Pacific Association of Scientific Societies.</i>	526
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	526
<i>University and Educational News</i>	531
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i> —	
<i>On the Proposed Reorganization of Departments of Clinical Medicine in the United States:</i> DR. GRAHAM LUSK. <i>Letter from Professor Ed. Claparède:</i> M. ED. CLAPARÈDE.	531
<i>Scientific Books:</i> —	
<i>MacBride's Text-book of Embryology:</i> F. R. L. GARRISON'S <i>Introduction to the History of Medicine:</i> DR. ROY L. MOODIE	534
<i>The Nature and Origin of Fiords:</i> PROFESSOR DOUGLAS W. JOHNSON	537
<i>Special Articles:</i> —	
<i>The Importance of a Consideration of the Fiber Proteins in the Process of Bleaching Cotton:</i> B. S. LEVINE	543
<i>The American Phytopathological Society:</i> DR. C. L. SHEAR	545
<i>The Philadelphia Meeting of the American Psychological Association:</i> DR. ROBERT M. OGDEN	547
<i>The Illinois Academy of Science:</i> PROFESSOR E. N. TRANSEAU	549
<i>Societies and Academies:</i> —	
<i>The Botanical Society of Washington:</i> DR. PERLEY SPAULDING. <i>The Biological Society of Washington:</i> M. W. LYON, JR. <i>The Anthropological Society of Washington:</i> DR. DANIEL FOLKMAR	550

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE DEPLORABLE CONTRAST BETWEEN INTRANATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ETHICS AND THE MISSION OF MEDICAL SCIENCE AND MEDICAL MEN¹

THE chief aim of my remarks is to point out the unique position which medical sciences and medical men occupy in the horrible war which is going on between civilized nations. International morality may possibly derive some permanent benefit from a conscious knowledge of this position. However, in order to make my point clear, I shall introduce it by a discussion of some aspects of ethics.

Moral philosophy assumes for granted that ethical relations of civilized men are safely established; it concerns itself merely with the question regarding the nature of the origin of ethical precepts. In general, it may be admitted that the vast majority of civilized men indeed do not question the correctness of ethical demands. But writers on moral philosophy fail to distinguish between *intranational* and *international* ethics. Hence, we find frequently that international occurrences are discussed from the point of view of intranational principles; international occurrences are brought before the forum of a supreme court of the world for judgment, but the merits and demerits of the cases are argued from the point of view of ethics which obtain in intranational moral relations. But the truth is that there is an abyss between the two domains of morality.

Let us first look at the status of intranational morality. The ethical relations

¹ Address delivered at the annual dinner of Columbia University Biochemical Association, March 26, 1915.